

Message Text

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17

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 STR-04 COME-00 TRSE-00 L-03 INT-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /034 W
----- 063639

R 010647Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1970

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, JA

SUBJECT: TOOL STEEL CLASSIFICATION PROBLEM

REF: STATE 212334

1. MITI OFFICIALS ON AUGUST 31 RAISED INFORMALLY WITH EMBASSY JAPANESE EXPORTS OF TOOL STEEL, WHICH WERE SUBJECT OF AUGUST 26 LETTER FROM AMBASSADOR YEUTTER TO JAPANESE AMBASSADOR (REFTEL). MITI IS DEEPLY CONCERNED AND WOULD LIKE TO HAVE CONSULTATIONS OFFERED IN THAT LETTER IN ORDER TO RESOLVE TOOL STEEL CLASSIFICATION PROBLEMS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

2. MITI SUGGESTED IN LOW KEY THAT IN INTERIM U.S. FIND SOME WAY TO EXCLUDE BEARING STEEL FROM TOOL STEEL QUOTA TO AVOID FULFILLMENT OF QUOTA IN SEPTEMBER. WE AGREED TRANSMIT REQUEST BUT TOLD MITI OFFICIALS THAT THEY SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR SUSPENSION OF TOOL STEEL IMPORTS IN SEPTEMBER SINCE USG NOT LIKELY TO MAKE ANY "TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS".

3. JAPANESE TOLD US THEY BELIEVE BEARING STEEL EXPORTS ARE BEING DEFINED AS TOOL STEEL AND CHARGED TO QUOTA IMPROPERLY. BEFORE SUGGESTING A TIME AND PLACE FOR CONSULTATIONS, THEY WOULD LIKE IMPORT DOCUMENTS OR OTHER DATA ON JAPANESE TOOL STEEL EXPORTS ON A WEEKLY AND MONTHLY BASIS AND ALSO INDICATING PORT OF ENTRY AND NAME OF JAPANESE SHIPPER. IF SUCH DOCUMENTATION CAN BE PROVIDED

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TO THE JAPANESE, PARTICULARLY ON LARGE EXPORTS, IT MAY

BE POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO ISOLATE THE PROBLEM AND CORRECT
EXPORTER PRACTICES. JAPANESE WOULD ALSO LIKE SPECIFIC
INFORMATION AS TO THE CHEMICAL COMPOSITION OF EXPORTS WHICH
U.S. DEFINES AS CHARGEABLE TO "TOOL STEEL."

4. EMBASSY URGED JAPANESE TO PREPARE FOR CONSULTATIONS
AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, ADDING THAT WASHINGTON WOULD
PROBABLY BE PREFERRED SITE TO PROVIDE BETTER ACCESS TO
IMPORT DOCUMENTS.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 01 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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